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ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for

1963



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ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for

1963

Atherton Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor P. JONES

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor M. H. GALLAGHER

Councillors:

L. COOP	R. D. HODGKISS	J. SUMNER
E. DONOGHUE	A. HOLLIDAY	C. URMSTON
F. FILDES	S. LOVELESS	J. WESTWELL
G. FIRTH	W. MURPHY	W. WILLIAMS
W. GOULDEN	R. SHAW	
H. GREENHALGH	J. STIRZAKER	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

THOMAS McGUIRE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., I.S.A.A.(Dip.),
Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

ALAN JACKSON, M.A.P.H.I.,

from 27th August, 1962

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT—CLEAN AIR:

T. BLAKELEY

CLERICAL ASSISTANT:

MRS. S. CONNELLY

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Atherton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

The estimated population was 19,890, an increase of 60 over the previous year and in keeping with a slightly increasing population over the past few years.

The statistics show total live births of 338, made up of 182 males and 156 females. This figure is slightly less than the 1962 figure and gives a live birth rate of 17.7 per 1,000 population. With one extra still birth from 7 in 1962 to 8 in 1963 the still birth rate goes up to 23.1 per 1,000 total births.

The number of deaths, given as 286 is below that of last year and is made up of 136 males, 150 females. Coronary disease, vascular lesions and other heart diseases, account for a considerable number and of the total deaths there were 112 in age group 75 and over.

Housing repairs and maintenance, slum clearance programmes and procedure figured largely in the environmental work of the health department. There was, however, a considerable delay in securing final confirmation of a clearance area consisting of some 58 dwellings.

The continuance of smoke control areas received a minor setback towards the latter part of the year. A confusion of policies, difficulties with fuel, and an extension of the types of appliances to be fitted, meant that the programme had to be reviewed, no practical progress therefore was possible.

The sanitary conditions affecting the district covering food hygiene and premises, slaughter-houses, food and water, housing and infectious diseases, have been vigorously surveyed and an analysis of the various activities are detailed in the text of the report.

In conclusion, my thanks are due to my fellow officers in all departments for their co-operation, and to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,
E. TAYLOR

SECTION A

Statistics

SECTION A

STATISTICS

General Statistics

Area in acres—2,265.

Population—

1961 Census—19,755.

Mid 1963 Estimate—19,890.

Number of inhabited houses—6,745.

Rateable Value—£498,324 at 31st December, 1963.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—1,875 at 31st December, 1963.

Vital Statistics

Live Births:—

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	174	148	322
Illegitimate	...	...	...	8	8	16
				—	—	—
			Total	...	182	156
					—	—
					182	338

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) 17.7

Still Births:—

	Males	Females	Total
	5	3	8

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) 23.1

Deaths—All Causes:—

	Males	Females	Total
	136	150	286

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 14.4

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 14.1

Maternal Deaths Nil

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) Nil

Infant Deaths 9

Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 live births) 26.6

Neo-Natal Deaths 6

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 17.8

Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 **total** births) 34.7

TABLE I
VITAL STATISTICS

	•Live Births		Stillbirths		•Deaths (all causes)		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality Total		Infant Mortality Neo-Natal	
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1963.....	338	17.7	8	23.1	286	14.1	nil	nil	9	26.6	6	17.8
Year 1962	358	18.1	7	19.2	316	15.9	nil	nil	8	22.3	5	14
Year 1961	321	16.2	14	41.8	280	14.6	nil	nil	9	28	7	21.8
Year 1960	327	16.5	9	26.8	251	12.7	nil	nil	7	21.4	5	15.3
Year 1959	308	15.6	8	25.3	305	15.1	1	3.16	2	6.5	1	3.2
Year 1958	326	16.5	5	15	281	14.3	1	3.02	6	18	3	9
Ave. 5 years— 1958-62	328	16.58	8.6	25.62	286.6	14.52	4	1.236	6.4	19.2	4.2	12.66

* Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.04) = 17.7 per 1,000.
death rate (comparability factor, 0.98) = 14.1 per 1,000.

TABLE II
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1963

Registrar General's Return

CAUSE OF DEATH	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	...
Tuberculosis, other .....	...	...
Syphilitic Disease	2	1
Diphtheria .....	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...
Meningococcal Infections	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	..
Measles .....	...	...
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	...	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	9	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	...	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	...	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	13
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	...	3
Diabetes .....	...	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	19	20
Coronary Disease, Angina	26	19
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2
Other Heart Disease	16	24
Other Circulatory Disease	12	4
Influenza	2	8
Pneumonia	6	10
Bronchitis	6	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	...
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	...
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	...
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	...
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	...	...
Congenital Malformations .....	...	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	25
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	...
All other Accidents	4	1
Suicide	1	...
Homicide and operations of war .....	...	...
TOTAL	136	150

TABLE III VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and death rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales, in the year 1963.

(Provisional figures based on Registrar General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Estimated home population mid-1963 — 47,022,700.

	No.	Rate per 1,000 home population
Births		
Live Births	856,276	18.2
Still-births	15,074	0.32
Deaths		17.3 (a)
All causes	572,484	12.2
Tuberculosis (all forms)	2,962	0.063
Respiratory	2,613	0.056
Non-Respiratory	349	0.007
Cancer (all forms)	102,380	2.18
Lung and bronchus	24,422	0.52
Other cancer	77,958	1.66
Maternal mortality (total)	244	0.28 (a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	195	0.22 (a)
Due to abortion	49	0.06 (a)
Infant mortality	17,870	20.9 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	12,176	14.2 (b)
Notifications (corrected)		
Typhoid fever	242	0.005
Paratyphoid fever	341	0.007
Meningococcal infection	607	0.013
Scarlet fever	17,437	0.371
Whooping cough	34,733	0.739
Diphtheria	33	0.001
Erysipelas	1,739	0.037
Smallpox	Nil	Nil
Measles	601,106	12.783
Acute pneumonia	14,170	0.301
Acute poliomyelitis—		
Paralytic	39	0.001
Non-paralytic	12	0.000
Acute encephalitis—		
Infective	125	0.003
Post-infectious	165	0.004
Dysentery	31,730	0.675
Food poisoning	5,860	0.125
Puerperal pyrexia	6,484	0.138
Tuberculosis—		
Respiratory	16,355	0.348
Meninges and C.N.S.	144	0.003
Other	2,464	0.052
Anthrax	10	0.000

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births. (b) Per 1,000 live births.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services
for the Area

SECTION B

HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance

Atherton Ambulance Station. Tel. Swinton 4343.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer: Miss J. L. Edwards, B.A., Williams Deacons Bank Chambers, Leigh. Tel. Leigh 72206.

1. ANTE-NATAL

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

2. DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION

(i) Alder House Clinic.

By arrangement, alternate Monday afternoons of the month.

(ii) General Practitioner Service.

3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

4. OPHTHALMIC

Alder House Clinic, by appointment.

Each Tuesday morning.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC

Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley, by appointment.

Second Thursday mornings of each month.

6. POST-NATAL

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday, 11 a.m.

7. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday mornings.

8. SPEECH THERAPY

Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

9. CHEST CLINIC

Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

10. VENEREAL DISEASES

(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males: Monday to Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 4-30 to 7 p.m.

Females: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9-30 to 11-30 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4-30 to 7 p.m.

(ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males: Friday, 2 to 6-30 p.m.

Females: Wednesday, 2 to 6 p.m.

(iii) Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

Males and Females: Monday, 9-30 to 10-30 a.m.

Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Convelescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

Health Visiting Service

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

Home Help Service

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service

District Nurses employed by the Lancashire C.C. are available in the district.

Hospitals

1. GENERAL

Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital, Astley Hospital.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton; Whelley Hospital, Wigan.

3. MATERNITY

Billinge Hospital, Bilinge.

Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Board Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmeries and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Maternity Homes

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Midwifery Service

Domiciliary midwives employed whole-time in the area by Lancashire C.C.

Nursing Homes

None in the district.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C.
Residential accommodation under Divisional arrangements.

X-ray Facilities

At Leigh and Wigan Infirmeries. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

SECTION C

Prevalence of and Control over
Infectious and other Diseases

SECTION C

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

No cases notified during the year, but the continued need for immunisation cannot be over emphasised.

Dysentery

Six cases of Dysentery notified for the year show a reduction on the 23 cases of the previous year.

Erysipelas

Of the six cases notified during the year, four were in the over 45 age group.

Food Poisoning

Only one case of food poisoning for the year, due to Salmonella Typhi Murium.

Malaria

No notifications for the year.

Measles

Following a year that had given us a marked reduction on the previous year's figure, the 429 cases reported this year follows the biennial fluctuation of this disease.

Meningococcal Infection

There were four cases of this virulent infection notified. Immediate and thorough investigations were carried out with the assistance of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Two of the cases proved fatal.

Paratyphoid Fever

No cases notified for the year.

Pneumonia

Four cases notified — one a schoolchild and two in the over 65 age group.

Poliomyelitis

It is pleasing to report that this has been another year with no cases of this disease.

Puerperal Pyrexia

No notifications for the year.

Scarlet Fever

Only three cases reported for the year as against 21 cases the year before.

Smallpox

No notified cases or "contacts" within the district for the year under review.

Tuberculosis

A total of eight cases reported for the year; seven males and one female.

11 quiescent cases were removed from the register as recovered.

Typhoid Fever

No notifications of this disease for the year.

Whooping Cough

There were 37 cases notified for the year.

TABLE IV

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1963

DISEASE	Total Cases at all ages	CASES NOTIFIED													Total Deaths
		Years													
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over		
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	6	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Meas'es, excl. German Meas'es	429	20	50	55	69	80	152	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	4	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	37	9	5	5	2	5	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis— Males	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	1	1	—
Females	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis— Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	498	30	56	62	74	87	167	3	2	2	2	10	3	1	—

TABLE V

Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years

Year	Birth rate	Death-rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Diphtheria		Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years)	Measles		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths		
1900	36.7	16.49	...	161.6	3	3	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	13	2
1905	30.9	13.7	...	141.8	40	3	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	55	17	5
1910	26.47	14.67	...	154.1	20	2	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	88	19	3
1915	25.44	13.11	...	103.09	31	3	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	7	2
1920	24.1	12.1	...	109	24	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	2	2
1925	15.4	10.9	...	63	29	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	1	1
1930	15.3	10.6	...	61	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	1	...
1935	13.3	12.6	14.3	73	10	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	...	...
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	127	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	...
1940	15.5	12.0	...	35	9	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	88	...	...
1943	18.2	12.8	...	74	12	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	...	...
1944	16.29	11.86	...	60	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	70	...	...
1945	17.9	11.3	...	23	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	...
1946	17.6	10.9	...	33	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	...
1947	19.7	13.3	...	50	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	79	...	...
1948	15.2	10.0	...	28	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104	...	...
1952	15.8	12.4	13.1	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97	...	...
1953	15.1	21.6	22.9	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	...
1954	13.7	11.8	12.6	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	...	...
1955	12.6	13.0	14.0	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	...
1956	15.2	12.8	14.3	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...
1957	14.6	15.8	17.4	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46	...	...
1958	16.5	14.3	14.3	18.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	...
1959	15.6	15.4	15.1	6.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	...	...
1960	16.5	12.7	12.7	21.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	...
1961	16.2	14.1	14.6	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
1962	18.1	15.9	15.3	22.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...
1963	17.7	14.4	14.1	26.6	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...

SECTION D

Sanitary Circumstances
of the Area

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The whole supply of the town is mains water and supplied by the Manchester Corporation Water Undertaking. The source is Thirlmere and throughout the year the supply has been constant, of good quality and adequate pressure.

Breakdowns in supply and distribution have not been excessive and have been due to unavoidable frost action or conduit maintenance. Colour has suffered somewhat for a short period following such breakdowns.

The water undertaking have responded to any demands made upon them.

Water sampling has taken place at intervals throughout the year and results of such analysis were found satisfactory.

Streams

There are eight watercourses of importance that pass through the township, none of which receive direct discharge of trade effluents or manufacturing process waste, such as dye works or chemical works. Colliery washing water and storm water overflow sewer discharge enter these streams and a free and uninterrupted flow is therefore imperative.

Dumping of scrap material and sundry mundane objects are both unsightly and objectionable and it is virtually impossible to prevent this on the open reaches of these streams. Your Surveyor's staff with limited resources of both labour and capital effect some measure of relief on the more seriously affected areas.

Drainage and Sewerage

All sewage of the town is dealt with by the Leigh & Atherton Joint Sewage Board at their works on the Leigh-Atherton boundary.

All town drainage is of the combined drainage system and two major trunks feed to the sewage works.

New sections continue to be added to the system in progression with the house building developments. Repair, flushing and cleansing are carried out as a continual process throughout the year.

A small number of residential properties on the perimeter of the township are not connected to the main town sewer system, but are adequately serviced by septic tank disposal system and there has been no breakdowns or sanitation problems.

Mining subsidence in the town has caused efforts to be made on the engineering side, to effect a satisfactory flow.

Sanitary Accommodation

At the end of 1963 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows:

Number of Privy Middens	Nil
Number of Pail Closets	2

Number of Trough Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets	474
Number of Freshwater Closets	7,614
Number of Dry Ashpits	Nil
Number of Moveable Ashbins	6,954
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	6,745
Conversions during 1963:	
Number of Privy Closets to Pail Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	13

The scheme for the conversion of waste water closets to fresh water closets carrying a grant of £9 towards the cost of each conversion has declined somewhat in recent years. It may be said that this is in part due to more extensive use of the standard grant scheme, whereby owners can enjoy the benefit of other basic amenities in addition to the fresh water toilet.

Disinfestation

The services of the Public Health Department are available for disinfestation purposes, and consist of operator, insecticides and equipment. Three privately owned houses and two Council controlled houses were treated during the year.

The residual spray insecticides are most effective and the ones in current use are DDT/Malathion.

Mills, food depots and other such establishments, of which there have been few in number, are also dealt with and a charge made for the service.

Public Cleansing

The collection and disposal of house refuse is carried out under the control of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The department operates four refuse collecting, side loading, vehicles, each with a team of driver and four loaders. A weekly collection is programmed and maintained, although minor fluctuations occur during periods of "wakes" holiday weeks and vehicle breakdowns.

It is suggested that a more modern type of vehicle be introduced, with a more hygienic and efficient operation.

Disposal is at Millers Lane tip and control is maintained by use of a mechanical B.T.D. 6 shovel. Excavating and covering of crude refuse with soil is effected with this machine.

Some concern is expressed over the length of life of the present tip and the acquisition of a new tipping area is imperative.

The salvage of waste paper is maintained and resulted in some 156 tons of material being excluded from this rapidly receding tip area and an income of £958 which would otherwise be lost.

Factories and Workplaces

Visits and inspection of factories were carried out throughout the year and an analysis is shown in Table VI of this report.

TABLE VI
FACTORIES ACT, 1961

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	9	21	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	73	104	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	4	7	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	86	132	5	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found	Abated	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	7	7	—
Inadequate Ventilation	1	1	—
Unreasonable Temperature	3	3	—
Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	9	9	—
Other Offences against the Act	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	20	20	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rodent Control

The Council employ a fully trained rodent operator and the eradication of rodent infestation has been actively pursued during the year.

Complaints of infestation are dealt with forthwith and in the case of householders this service is free. Business and/or factory premises are charged a nominal rate and a number of industrial concerns have a contract with the department for a monthly service to be carried out

A major control measure is the systematic treatment of the sewers of the town, carried out half-yearly and in conformity to the directives laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, to whom a report of such treatment is forwarded.

Analysis of the work carried out is shown in appendix VII of this report.

Swimming Baths

The public swimming baths in Mayfield Street is owned and controlled by the Council.

Considerable sums of money have been spent over the past few years to modernise the plunge and the boilerhouse equipment, and the Council are still actively considering putting further schemes in hand.

The water going into the plunge is towns main supply, is treated and heated prior to entry and the method of filling is the continuous flow method.

Simple chlorine dosage tests are carried out daily and samples of plunge water after periods of use are submitted for analysis, and the reports of these have proven satisfactory throughout the year.

The schools in the area use the baths as part of their educational activities and from reports of Baths Superintendent the public popularity of the baths remains.

Schools

There are nine schools in the town, some of which retain the original building but now have additional blocks added to them. In all the original structures some measure of modernisation and improvement has taken place.

All have adequate water supply, fresh water toilet accommodation and are reasonably equipped with washing facilities

School meals services functioned satisfactorily, the milk supply scheme was adequately maintained and the health facilities afforded to schools, functioned without untoward incident throughout the year.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trade establishments in the town.

Houses Let in Lodgings

There are no houses let in lodgings, nor any lodging houses in the district.

Rag Flock Act

One shop only is registered under this Act, and the wider use of modern synthetic products affords a greater measure of control.

TABLE VII

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	(1) Dwelling Houses (Inc. Council Houses)	(2) All Other (Inc. Business Premises)	(3) Total of Cols. (1) & (2)	(4) Agricultural
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	6745	1343	8088	14
II. Number of properties inspected	67	155	222	1
III. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections	83	187	270	2
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Section II) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats	—	—	—	—
{ Major	48	109	157	1
{ Minor	—	—	—	—
(b) Mice	19	46	65	—
V. Number of infested properties treated	67	155	222	1
VI. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments	74	168	242	1
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:				
(a) Treatment	—	—	Nil	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	Nil	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act				
IX. Legal Proceedings			Nil	
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out			Nil	

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision
of Food

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Places under Inspection

The number of food premises, by type of business, at end of 1963 were as follows:

Grocers	91
Bakers	19
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream), etc.	39
Fried Fish Shops	18
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.)	22
Greengrocers	9
Fishmongers	6
Canteens, Snack Bars and Licensed Premises	49
Others	3

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1951, include:—

	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections during 1963
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit and Vegetables	5	9
„ Meat and Meat Products ...	3	7
Bakehouses	16	34
Fried Fish Shops	18	27
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises	3	11
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises ...	16	26
Ice Cream Shops	57	68

Food Premises

Throughout the year, food premises (shops and food storage depots) have been subjected to regular and routine inspection.

The standard of hygiene and cleanliness is on the whole satisfactory. Infringements of the code of clean food handling

and of hygiene, are dealt with expeditiously, if possible without recourse to statutory proceedings.

Shops displaying and selling food to be consumed without further preparation merit the more constant inspection and in such establishments the facilities for washing (hot water, soap, nail brush and towel) and its associated link with the risk of infection from the toilet habits of the food handler, are subject to constant propaganda during these visits.

The sampling of food under the Food & Drugs Act is carried out by the inspectorate of the Lancashire County Council, who are the Food and Drugs Authority for this purpose.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the list of foodstuffs sampled which I reprint in the text of this report.

Slaughterhouses

There are two privately owned slaughterhouses in the district and slaughtering is carried out daily on six days of the week.

During 1963 legislation was introduced that necessitated all inspected carcasses to be stamped when found fit for human consumption and introduced a charge to be made for this service. Coincidental with this, the larger of the two establishments attained a throughput that made a greater demand on the inspectors, and consequently a further additional public health inspector was appointed.

Adopting a rota system all meat was inspected and stamped and details of the numbers slaughtered and examined are given herewith, covering the period January to December, 1963.

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. Slaughtered	3987	10689	5	12176	778
No. Inspected	3987	10689	5	12176	778

All Diseases other than T.B.

Whole Carcasses condemned	1	77	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	663	1988	—	1130	86
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	16.7	19.4	—	9.3	11.0

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned	5	—	—	—	—
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
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Milk Supply

The County Council now has the responsibility for the issue of licences and all dairy farmers are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

All milk sold in the district is "designated milk", in conformity with the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1954.

Milk supplies to schools, under contract, is controlled by the County Council. There are no milk pasteurising plants in the area.

Six samples of milk submitted during the year for analysis all gave satisfactory readings in the reports.

The sampling officers of the County Council obtain and submit milk samples for chemical analysis and institute proceedings, should this be necessary.

The results of samples taken locally are:

(a) Raw Milk:

(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—

No. of samples 6. No. positive nil. No. negative 6. No result nil.

(ii) Methylene Blue Test—

No. of samples 6. No. satisfactory 6. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(b) "Heat treated" Milk:

(i) Phosphatase Test—

No. of samples 4. No. satisfactory 4. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(ii) Turbidity Test—

No. of samples 4. No. satisfactory 4. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(iii) Methylene Blue Test—

No. of samples 4. No. satisfactory 4. No. unsatisfactory nil.

Food Inspection

The condemnation of foodstuffs is carried out during visits to the food shops and food depots, and all is voluntarily surren-

dered. Blown, burst, rust and contamination form the principle cause of condemnation and the quantity condemned consisted of:

Fruits	1229 tins—964 lbs.
Meats (stewed steak, corned beef and tongue)	532 tins—978 lbs.
Vegetables	167 tins—145 lbs.
Others (rice, fish, etc.)	136 tins—118 lbs.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

A total of 105 samples was obtained, consisting of 67 samples of milk (six of which were Channel Islands milk) and 38 others comprising:

1 Boracic lint B.P.C.	3 Sweets
1 Almond Oil B.P.	1 Castor oil B.P.
3 Vegetables, canned	1 Creamed rice milk pudding, canned
3 Flavouring material	1 Pickled onions
1 White pepper	1 Liquid paraffin emulsion
1 Invalid jelly	1 Calomine lotion B.P.
1 Camphorated oil B.P.	1 Solution of hydrogen peroxide B.P.
1 Honey	1 Penicillin tablets B.P.
1 Epsom salts	1 Peaches
2 pork sausages	2 Brandy
1 Rum	2 Gin
1 Whisky	1 Vinegar
1 Gelatine	2 Mixed spice
1 Jam	1 Slice of bread

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 Milk	Contained 0.3 international units antibiotic per ml.	Farmer interviewed. Milk Marketing Board informed
1 Pork sausages	Contained 60 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration	Vendor interviewed and cautioned
1 Peaches	Contained 1 dead honey bee which had been present before the contents of the can were heat processed.	Complainant and importers notified
1 Gin	47.4% under proof. Contained 19.01% extraneous water	Legal proceedings instituted Vendor fined £20 and ordered to pay £7/7/- costs
1 Milk	Contained 0.02 international units penicillin per ml.	Farmer and Milk Marketing Board informed
1 Slice of bread	Contained a flour beetle	Complainant informed. Bakery cautioned.

SECTION F

Housing

SECTION F

HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—	Houses	Flats
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(i) By the Local Authority	30	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	29	—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		387
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose		504
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:		
(a) Number found during year		59
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year		203
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit		332

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957 and 1961):—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:		
(a) Unfit houses		62
(b) Other houses		—
(2) Number of persons displaced		163

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	No. of houses	No. of persons displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:— Housing Act, 1957:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	6	17
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 16 and still in force	—	—

(2) Repairs during the year:—

*No. of
houses

(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	191
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners	4
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	--
(c) Housing Act, 1957—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11):— Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners	4
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

4. **Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—**

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil

*A defective house remedied more than once during the year is included once only.

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during the year:—

	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwellings Affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	60	60
(b) Approved by Local Authority	56	56
(c) Submitted by L.A. to Ministry	2	2
(d) Approved by the Ministry	2	2
(e) Works completed	62	62
(includes approvals in 1962 and work completed in 1963).		

**House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959—
Standard Grants—**

	No. of Dwellings Affected
(a) Applications submitted to L.A.	80
(b) Applications approved by L.A.	79
(c) Work completed	72

General Inspections

Houses (including re-visits)	1596
Schools	29
Factories and Workplaces	156
Bakehouses	182
Food preparing premises	197
Miscellaneous, etc.	429
Shops	103
Slaughter-houses	1037
	<hr/>
	3729
	<hr/>

In connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found	Remedied
House roofs in need of repair	76	73
Defective W.C.s	81	79
Choked or defective drains	27	26
Defective plaster or walls, etc.	105	92
Insanitary conditions of yards	2	2
House walls damp	122	109
Defective eaves gutters	37	31
Defective windows, etc.	31	28
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	—	—
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, etc.)	83	72
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	564	512
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:

Informal	164
Statutory	26

GENERAL. Conditions and observations

As in previous years the work of improvement and repair of houses, and the demolition of unfit properties, has formed a considerable portion of the work of the Health department.

Atherton has some 6,750 dwellings, a population of close on 20,000 and an area of roughly 2,200 acres. It is an industrial town, having cotton, coal, engineering and nut and bolt manufacturing as its staple industries.

There are terraced rows of property which vary greatly in their degree of fitness. Some long terraced rows solidly built and well maintained will quite obviously be with us for a number of years. Some of the more older terraces and blocks are constantly being reviewed and surveyed to be earmarked and dealt with as befits their condition.

There are no back-to-back houses and no common lodging houses, but a considerable number of houses lack bath, hot water and flush sanitation.

The number of Council controlled properties now exceeds the 2,300 figure and building continues on three sites in the town.

Private enterprise is developing a number of sites: one of 280 dwellings, one of 78, one of 20, two of 60 and finally one of 52 dwellings.

The 1960-65 slum clearance programme is expected to be completed by the middle of 1964 and survey will continue to bring into operation a 1965-70 programme.

The demand for the amenities provided by way of Standard Improvement Grant continues to be sustained and provides a better living standard for a number of people from whom this benefit has too long been denied.

Inroads were made on the survey and preparation of the No. 2 Smoke Control Area. Some public resistance was felt during the actual survey but it was assessed that the greatest apprehension was of the fuel, its quality and cost. As has been proven elsewhere, these schemes must be continuous and contiguous if they are to be successful and we are to obtain the benefits of clean air.

The public utility services and all district health services functioned satisfactorily with no major breakdowns or disruptions.

SECTION G

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement

SECTION G

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

Atmospheric Pollution

There are two daily recording meters in use, sited at the Town Hall and in the Parks and Cemetery grounds in West Ward. From these daily recordings it is apparent that pollution is still at a high level and lends support to the crying need for the continuance of smoke control orders.

A perusal of the readings, given in microgrammes per cubic metre, of smoke pollution, gave a mean reading of 294 Town Hall, 268 Parks Garage, and sulphur pollution a mean reading of 217 Town Hall, 148 Parks Garage, over the year.

A table showing the average daily amounts of pollution is appended.

The industrial smoke nuisance problem received a welcome fillip in the form of two of the worst offending chimney boiler house plants being modernised. The result is to say the least most encouraging and with more Smoke Control Orders perhaps we can look forward to a cleaner and brighter air.

Atmospheric Pollution by smoke and sulphur, measured by volumetric instruments at the Town Hall and Parks Department Garage

PERIOD 1963	Average daily amounts of pollution in microgrammes per cubic metre of air			
	SMOKE		SULPHUR	
	Town Hall	Parks Garage	Town Hall	Parks Garage
January	630	638	564	354
February	439	523	360	296
March	316	278	228	136
April	274	242	210	144
May	184	117	139	96
June	115	86	98	75
July	130	98	110	87
August	148	106	105	66
September	239	188	152	123
October	303	232	169	109
November	341	291	159	93
December	414	418	315	194



